

From: Cathryn22@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/3/02 3:19pm
Subject: microsoft settlement

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a public school teacher in Wisconsin and am writing on behalf of the proposed settlement in the Microsoft case. I support the goals that are set forth in this settlement to establish an independent foundation comprised of educators to distribute technology funds, computers and software to the nation's poorest schools.

As a public school teacher, I am made aware of the importance of technology on a daily basis. I am also well aware of the huge technology gap that exists between wealthy and poor communities. This settlement would make a big difference in Wisconsin in that we are below the national average when it comes to computer availability for students. These funds could also help provide teachers with sufficient technology training, another area in which we are behind in Wisconsin.

Technology can be a powerful teaching tool and if we are going to fully prepare today's students for tomorrow's world, we have to stay current and we have to make technology available to everyone. In my school district we are just beginning to see the impact that technology can have. We recently passed a referendum that enabled the district to purchase one computer per teacher, and is slowly striving to have one computer for every 6 students. While that still is sorely behind what we see in the business world, it has already made a big difference. A settlement such as this could assist other districts, as well as my own, in obtaining the technology necessary for education in the 21st century.

Thank-you for your consideration,
Cathy Atkinson
Social Studies Teacher
Waukesha, WI.